

## Lawsuit filed against Chesapeake

The Review Staff

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A lawsuit was filed on Friday at the Bradford County Courthouse against Chesapeake Energy Corporation and one of its affiliates.

According to the complaint, provided by attorneys Michael Gleeson of Archbald, Pa., Peter J. Cambs of Bonita Springs, Fla., **Richard J. Arsenault of Alexandria, La.**, and Daniel E. Becnel Jr., of Reserve, La., on behalf of the plaintiffs, Edwin Bidlack, Candy Bidlack and Jessie Lee Northrup, all of Wyalusing, have filed a lawsuit against Chesapeake and Nomac Drilling.

The lawsuit contends that a natural gas drilling operation established in 2009 in Terry Township, Bradford County, contaminated a ground well that provided the main water supply to the plaintiffs' residence. The lawsuit contends that methane, ethane, barium and other pollutants and substances were discharged as a result of the gas well drilling operation, and contaminated the ground and aquifer near the plaintiffs' home and into the ground water well used as a water supply.

The lawsuit is contending that Edwin and Candy Bidlack, who own the residence in question, have suffered financial damage to their home as a result of the contaminated water supply, "and the water and premises are contaminated with dangerously high and explosive levels of methane, causing great diminution of value to their home and real property." The lawsuit is also contending that the Bidlacks and Northrup, who lives with them, all live in constant fear of future physical illness, due to the contamination.

The plaintiffs are seeking a permanent injunction, barring Chesapeake and its affiliates from any future gas drilling in the immediate area of their home, compensation for any past and future medical costs, as well as damages for the diminution of their property.

The plaintiffs are demanding that their case be heard before a judge sitting with a jury.

When contacted about the matter, Rory Sweeney, a media representative for Chesapeake, said that they cannot respond to the lawsuit at this time because they have not yet seen it.